

**REMARKS**

In a telephonic conversation with the USPTO Inventor's Assistant Center, the Applicant was informed that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 in the current Office Action could be addressed in another way by adding a claim that included all the elements of each grouping. In a Telephonic Interview with the Examiner on 12/28/05, the Examiner indicated that she was willing to consider such a claim.

Further, it was indicated that the Applicant could follow up on this approach with another Telephonic Interview near the end of January 2006 to address any issues that may be apparent in this new claim.

In a telephonic interview on March 9, 2006 the Examiner indicated that she could not review the benefits of added claim 127 since the applicant had not specified a grouping as per requirement. The Examiner also indicated that regardless of the scope of claim 127, it was up to her discretion to "rejoin" the claims or not.

Prior responses indicated groupings wherein the remaining claims were withdrawn without prejudice.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

No claims are changed herein.

**CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

The present application is a national stage application filed under 35 USC § 371. Applicant requests acknowledgment that the present application has met the requirements of 35 USC § 371, and accordingly, this application claims the benefit of the international filing date of PCT application PCT/US98/20376, filed on 10/29/1998.

**REQUEST FOR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE**

Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance for pending claims in Group III and that upon the success of the intent of added claim 127, that the Examiner agrees consider all the claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Group III is elected and it is submitted that all pending claims 86 – 107, 109 – 123 and 125 – 127 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned applicant before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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